

# Local & State

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Amy J. Van Horn/Rockford Register Star

Brandon Bocian (from left), Sarah Burnworth, Daniel Clay, Abby Johnson and Sneha Goud discuss budgets Friday at the 21st Century Leaders conference at Rock Valley College.

## Leadership conference held at RVC

By CARRIE WATTERS  
Rockford Register Star

ROCKFORD — Leaders of tomorrow and today talked together Friday at a conference hosted by U.S. Rep. Don Manzullo.

More than 170 students from 45 high schools across the congressman's 16th District converged on Rock Valley College's Stenstrom Center for the fifth "21st Century Leaders" conference.

Student leaders tackled tough topics like "America's global responsibility" in a session led by Lt. Col. Clemson G. Turregano, who teaches at the U.S. Naval War College in Rhode Island.



Don Manzullo



Farrah Singh

Other sessions were led by local leaders like Winnebago County State's Attorney Paul Logli, who faced off with Rockford Register Star Executive Editor Linda Grist Cunningham on homeland security versus individual rights.

Students looked to the issues that may call them into leadership. Some pointed to issues of rapid change in a society driven by technology in everything from

communication to health.

Students, along with the adults, offered insights on what it means to lead.



Ron Webb

### Teens

"Somebody who is successful and knows what they want in life," said Farrah Singh, 17, Marengo High School.

"Someone who dares to be different, an individual," said Ron Webb, 17, of Christian Life.



Brittney Foreman

"They know how to communicate with people and their goals make a difference in people's lives," said Brittney Foreman, 16, Auburn High School.



Cory Davison

### Adults

"Honesty, you can start and end there. ... That's what people will see over the most eloquent speakers," Manzullo said.



Al Penniman

"To hold a conviction of improving public policy, not only in the struggle for those who need it today but tomorrow. ... It also requires someone who can have their convictions but learn from others with opposing views," said Cory Davison, who is regional director for the Concord Coalition, a non-partisan, grass-roots organization dedicated to educating the public about federal budget issues and their consequences for the future. Davison led a student session about a day in the life of a U.S. representative.

"Someone who will lead by example and make the hard decisions," said Al Penniman, special projects coordinator for Manzullo.

Contact: cwatters@registerstartower.com;  
815-987-1242